

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

TRANSLATION

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

P37389-P0

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/000832

International filing date (day/month/year)

24.01.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)

26.01.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Applicant

MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/000832

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐

This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language

_____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

☐

a sequence listing

☐

table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

☐

in written format

☐

in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

☐

contained in the international application as filed.

☐

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐

furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
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International application No.

PCT/JP2005/000832

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-15</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims _____	YES
	Claims <u>1-15</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-15</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Document 1: JP, 2003-308241, A (Sony Corp.), 31 October, 2003 (31.10.03), full text, all drawings, & WO, 2003/088043, A1

Document 2: JP, 7-73090, A (Hitachi Ltd.), 17 March, 1995 (17.03.95), full text, all drawings, & US, 5619690, A

Document 3: WO, 2001/075566, A1 (Dataplay, Inc.), 11 October, 2001 (11.10.01), full text, all drawings, & US, 6823398, B1

Document 4: JP, 2003-162439, A (Hitachi Ltd.), 6 June, 2003 (06.06.03), full text, all drawings, & US, 2003/0105767, A1, & EP, 1315074, A2

Document 5: JP, 2001-243724, A (Sony Corp.), 7 September, 2001 (07.09.01), full text, all drawings (particularly, paragraphs [0006]-[0012]), & EP, 1130599, A2, & US, 2001/0032213, A1

Claims 1, 2, 10, 11 and 12

The subject matters of claims 1, 2, 10, 11 and 12 do not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1-3 cited in the ISR. Document 1 describes an invention of a nonvolatile memory card having a controller that controls the nonvolatile memory in the card. Paragraphs [0044]-[0053] and Fig. 6 of document 1 describe that there is an attribute information area in which a parameter to be used when formatting the memory card is recorded. Besides, it is well known as described in documents 2 and 3 to configure a semiconductor memory device so that the storage has a file system interface.

Claims 3, 5 and 6

The subject matters of claims 3, 5 and 6 do not appear to involve an inventive step in view of document 4 cited in the ISR. Document 4 describes a storage system having both a file interface and a block interface. Besides, it is a well-known art as seen in NAS (network attached storage), etc. to configure a semiconductor memory device so that the storage can deal with plural kinds of file system interfaces.

Claim 4

The subject matter of claim 4 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1-4. Paragraphs [0069]-[0084] of document 1 describe that the nonvolatile memory area in the card is made usable as a file system by issuing a FORMAT command to the memory card.

Claims 7, 8, 13 and 14

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International application No.

PCT/JP2005/000832

Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

The subject matters of claims 7, 8, 13 and 14 do not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1-3. It is a well-known art (for example, refer to Fig. 8 of document 1) to determine a parameter for a logical format so that the elimination block in the nonvolatile memory becomes an integral multiple of a file access unit.

Claims 9 and 15

The subject matters of claims 9 and 15 do not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1-3 and document 5 cited in the ISR. Document 5 describes a technical idea of recording a directory in a prescribed area collectively.

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Box No. I

Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material,
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
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☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
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1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-15	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-15	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-15	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations:			
<p>Document 1: JP, 2003-308241, A (Sony Corp.), 31 October, 2003 (31.10.03), full text, all drawings, & WO, 2003/088043, A1</p> <p>Document 2: JP, 7-73090, A (Hitachi Ltd.), 17 March, 1995 (17.03.95), full text, all drawings, & US, 5619690, A</p> <p>Document 3: WO, 2001/075566, A1 (Dataplay, Inc.), 11 October, 2001 (11.10.01), full text, all drawings, & US, 6823398, B1</p> <p>Document 4: JP, 2003-162439, A (Hitachi Ltd.), 6 June, 2003 (06.06.03), full text, all drawings, & US, 2003/0105767, A1, & EP, 1315074, A2</p> <p>Document 5: JP, 2001-243724, A (Sony Corp.), 7 September, 2001 (07.09.01), full text, all drawings (particularly, paragraphs [0006]-[0012]); & EP, 1130599, A2, & US, 2001/0032213, A1</p> <p>Claims 1, 2, 10, 11 and 12</p> <p>The subject matters of claims 1, 2, 10, 11 and 12 do not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1-3 cited in the ISR. Document 1 describes an invention of a nonvolatile memory card having a controller that controls the nonvolatile memory in the card. Paragraphs [0044]-[0053] and Fig. 6 of document 1 describe that there is an attribute information area in which a parameter to be used when formatting the memory card is recorded. Besides, it is well known as described in documents 2 and 3 to configure a semiconductor memory device so that the storage has a file system interface.</p> <p>Claims 3, 5 and 6</p> <p>The subject matters of claims 3, 5 and 6 do not appear to involve an inventive step in view of document 4 cited in the ISR. Document 4 describes a storage system having both a file interface and a block interface. Besides, it is a well-known art as seen in NAS (network attached storage), etc. to configure a semiconductor memory device so that the storage can deal with plural kinds of file system interfaces.</p> <p>Claim 4</p> <p>The subject matter of claim 4 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1-4. Paragraphs [0069]-[0084] of document 1 describe that the nonvolatile memory area in the card is made usable as a file system by issuing a FORMAT command to the memory card.</p> <p>Claims 7, 8, 13 and 14</p>			

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Claims 9 and 15

The subject matters of claims 9 and 15 do not appear to involve an inventive step in view of documents 1-3 and document 5 cited in the ISR. Document 5 describes a technical idea of recording a directory in a prescribed area collectively.